

2015 Junior Duck Stamp Design Contest Winners Announced for Wyoming!

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The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently announced the winners of the 2015 Wyoming Junior Duck Stamp Program. More than 530 art entries were received. Students also include a “conservation message” on their art, which summarizes what they learned through the program. Andrew Kneeland, age 17, of Rock Springs, WY submitted the winning conservation message “Nature is like a spider’s web: incredibly strong yet easily broken.” The Best of Show artwork was also painted by Andrew Kneeland, of Rock Springs. His artwork, an acrylic painting of a pair of wood ducks, and his conservation message both advanced on to represent Wyoming at the 2015 National Federal Junior Duck Stamp Contest which was held April 17th at the National Conservation Training Center in Shephardstown, WV. Kneeland’s artwork took the Best of Show honors at the national level and will be used to create a National Junior Duck Stamp which will be released in June of 2016. The Junior Duck Stamp is available for \$5 from the U.S. Postal Service, Amplex Corporation and from many National Wildlife Refuges. Proceeds from the sale of the stamps support conservation education and provide awards and scholarships for participating students, teachers and schools.

Wyoming also awards a “Betty Nelson Artistic Promise Award” to the younger age groups for K – 3rd grades to a piece the judges feel exhibits exemplary artistic promise. This year’s award went to Reagan Ryte Teichert, age 9, of Cokeville for a colored pencil depiction of a mallard titled “Bob.”

This dynamic educational program uses both conservation and design principles to teach wetland habitat and waterfowl biology to students in kindergarten through high school. The program provides an opportunity for students to artistically express their knowledge of the diversity, interdependence and beauty of wildlife. Educational guides for youth, educators, home school, and non-traditional education are available through the Junior Duck Stamp Program. Please visit www.fws.gov/juniorduck or contact Katie Theule (307) 413-8157 or Katie_Theule@fws.gov for copies.

A big thank you goes out to Ducks Unlimited, who helped provide prizes and support for Wyoming’s program. We would like to especially thank the contest judges who donated their time and expertise: Andrea Orabona from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Mindy Meade of the USFWS Partner’s Program, Jennifer Lamb of The Nature Conservancy, Wade Henderson from Bear River State Park and Greg Nelson from Ducks Unlimited.

The contest was judged in four age groups, Group I included Kindergarten through 3rd grade, Group II - 4th grade through 6th grade, Group III - 7th grade through 9th grade, and Group IV - 10th grade through 12th grade. The following is a list of first place, second place, third place and honorable mention winners in each group for the Wyoming Junior Duck Stamp Program artwork. A * indicates the artwork was recognized by the judges for outstanding creativity through the pose, composition, use of color etc. Some of the artwork recognized for creativity did not place and are listed after the honorable mentions in each age group.

Group I (grades K-3):

First Places: Micah Petersen* of Cokeville, WY
Justin Castagno of Moran, WY
Reagan RYTE Teichert of Cokeville, WY – Betty Nelson Artistic Promise Award

Second Places: Jack Dayton of Cokeville, WY
Ivory Neher of Green River, WY
Wyatt Eggett of Wilson, WY

Third Places: Kylee King of Cokeville, WY
Tyleigh Dayton of Cokeville, WY
Isabella Suske of Wilson, WY

Honorable Mentions: Bryli Groll of Cokeville, WY
Sarah Clements of Cokeville, WY
Mia Dayton of Cokeville, WY
Harley Mackey of Cokeville, WY
Rebecca Hymer of Cokeville, WY
Amelia Richardson of Cokeville, WY
Drake Plowman of Cokeville, WY
Adison Eversull of Cokeville, WY
Kate Teichert of Cokeville, WY
Maelin Coin* of Kelly, WY
Emily Stafford of Wilson, WY
Cam Prichard of Wilson, WY
Levana Sangtos of Wilson, WY
Bradford King of Wilson, WY
Sophie Stoessel of Wilson, WY
Cayden Reedy of Wilson, WY

Creative Recognition: Conner Healy* of Kelly, WY
Jalen Tattersall* of Wilson, WY

Group II (grades 4-6):

First Places: Jordyn Nate of Cokeville, WY
Sydney Nate* of Cokeville, WY
Taylor Glick of Wilson, WY

Second Places: Rylee Teichert of Cokeville, WY
Whytney Murdock of Cokeville, WY
Buckeye Milligan of Wilson, WY

Third Places: Cydney Brown of Cokeville, WY
Ridge Kling of Wilson, WY
Max French of Wilson, WY

Honorable Mentions: Tyler Moyes of Cokeville, WY
Brookette Hatch of Cokeville, WY
Brenda Bencomo of Cokeville, WY
Jayci Thornock of Cokeville, WY
Dakota King of Cokeville, WY
Kelli Haderlie of Cokeville, WY
Nate Barnes of Cokeville, WY
Rylie Payne of Cokeville, WY
Matthew Thompson of Cokeville, WY

Nick Janssen of Kelly, WY
Natalia Raciborski of Wilson, WY
Walter Duquette of Wilson, WY
Samuel Scott of Wilson, WY
Acacia La Prade of Wilson, WY
Carey Ritter of Wilson, WY
Dylan Reman* of Wright, WY
Creative Recognition: Allyson Tonga* of Cokeville, WY
Tristan Delorme* of Riverton, WY
Lucy Sullivan* of Wilson, WY

Group III (grades 7-9):

First Places: Addison Petrie of Powell, WY
Olivia Hobby of Powell, WY – 2nd Runner Up for Best of Show
Bailey Schupp of Pinedale, WY – Runner Up for Best of Show
Second Places: Mariana M Mendoza* of Powell, WY
Jordan Moore of Powell, WY
Shea Swenson of Powell, WY
Third Places: Hattie Pimentel of Powell, WY
Jacob Bridges of Powell, WY
Aspen Aguirre of Powell, WY
Honorable Mentions: Omar Gonzalez of Cokeville, WY
Trey Nate of Cokeville, WY
Kamille Nate of Cokeville, WY
Garrett King of Cokeville, WY
Britney Bowen of Cokeville, WY
Brayden Johnson of Cokeville, WY
Kaylee Cornia* of Cokeville, WY
Quinton Eversull of Cokeville, WY
Alley McKinnon of Cokeville, WY
Rylie Kannard of Lovell, WY
Jesse Erickson of Powell, WY
Treven Keeler* of Powell, WY
Josh Wolfe of Powell, WY
Telisha Acton of Powell, WY
Charlie Scott of Powell, WY
Alli Sommerville of Powell, WY
Creative Recognition: Gracie Gregory* of Wright, WY

Group IV (grades 10-12):

First Places: Cydney Barrus of Powell, WY – 3rd Runner Up for Best of Show
Kate Fiscus of Cokeville, WY - 4th Runner Up for Best of Show
Andrew Kneeland* of Rock Springs, WY - Best of Show
Second Places: Katelyn Perkins* of Cokeville, WY
Jacob Prante of Powell, WY
Claire Miner of Powell, WY
Third Places: Demi Dusenberry of Powell, WY
Shyla Hill of Powell, WY

Lexee Craig of Powell, WY

Honorable Mentions: Cassidy Harmon of Cokeville, WY
Jessica Gonzalez of Cokeville, WY
Sarah Jean O'Neill of Powell, WY
Ty Linebaugh of Powell, WY
Rachel Walker of Powell, WY
MacKenzie White of Powell, WY
Dawson Hutzenbieler of Powell, WY
Ashley Dillon of Powell, WY
Jacinta Schneider of Powell, WY
Cheyenne Perry of Powell, WY
Kalina Smith of Powell, WY
Rebecca Pratt of Powell, WY
Megan Wagner of Powell, WY
Chase Lundberg of Powell, WY
Mary Lynn of Powell, WY
Trey Ouellette of Powell, WY
Mallory Triplett of Ralston, WY
Creative Recognition: Victoria Nate* Cokeville, WY
Tiffany Bergman* of Powell, WY
Shawna Banks* of Wright, WY

Students submitted artwork featuring the following native North American species: whistling ducks, swans, geese, dabbling ducks, diving ducks, sea ducks, mergansers, stiff tails, or Hawaiian ducks. A full list of permitted species is available online at www.fws.gov/juniorduck. Artwork entries were judged on the basis of original design, anatomical accuracy, artistic composition and suitability for reproduction on a 1" by 1.5" stamp. For more information on contest rules and educational materials for teachers and supervising adults visit www.fws.gov/juniorduck.

Copies of the winning artwork will be exhibited around the state. The tour will start on April 5th at the Rock Springs Ducks Unlimited banquet and then proceed to Seedskadee National Wildlife Refuge in Southwestern Wyoming. Jackson, Powell, Green River, Gillette, Sheridan, Casper, and Cheyenne are some of the scheduled stops on the tour. A detailed schedule of the tour is attached and will be available soon online at www.fws.gov/refuge/seedskadee. An online gallery of the top 100 entries will be available by May from www.fws.gov/refuge/seedskadee.

The Wyoming Junior Duck Stamp Program is sponsored by the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Program, Seedskadee National Wildlife Refuge and Ducks Unlimited.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit <http://www.fws.gov>.

Photo 1 : Wyoming 2015 Best of Show Winner Andrew Kneeland, with his painting “Sunlit Squealers” and his parents, Kevin and Heather. Credit: Tom Koerner USFWS



Photo 2 : "Sunlit Squealers" by Andrew Kneeland, age 17 of Rock Springs, the Wyoming 2015 Best of Show featuring a pair of wood ducks.



Photo 3 : Wyoming Junior Duck Stamp Competition 2015 judges with the top five entries for the state. Judges from left to right holding best of show to the 4th runner up: Jennifer Lamb of The Nature Conservancy with Andrew Kneeland's "Sunset Squealers," Mindy Meade of USFWS with Bailey Schupp's "Splashing Beauty," Andrea Orabona of WY Game & Fish, with Olivia Hobby's "Duck Stamp," Wade Henderson of Bear River State Park with Cydney Barrus's "Ruddy Feathers Beneath a Dynamic Sky" and Greg Nelson of Ducks Unlimited with Kate Fiscus's "Fall Flight." Credit: Tom Koerner USFWS

